

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EURE-00 IO-10 ACDA-05 BIB-01 CIAE-00

DODE-00 PM-03 H-02 INR-07 L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01

PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 OMB-01 SAJ-01 /075 W

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P R 171731Z APR 75

FM AMEMBASSY PARIS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 8614

INFO USMISSION NATO

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY LISBON

AMEMBASSY MADRID

AMEMBASSY PRAGUE

AMEMBASSY WARSAW

AMEMBASSY BELGRADE

AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST

AMEMBASSY SOFIA

AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT, FR, UR

SUBJECT: MITTERRAND TO GO TO USSR, APRIL 23-30

REF: PARIS 9272

SUMMARY. ON APRIL 16, 80 PERCENT OF THE SOCIALIST PARTY (PS) EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE VOTED THAT PARTY FIRST SECRETARY FRANCOIS MITTERRAND SHOULD ACCEPT A FIFTH SOVIET INVITATION TO VISIT MOSCOW APRIL 23-30. IN ACCEPTING THIS INVITATION, THE PS IS SAID TO HAVE DECIDED THAT THE SECRET MEETING OF THE CPSU CENTRAL COMMITTEE WHICH RESULTED IN SHELEPIN'S OUSTER PROVIDED

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A SUITABLE JUSTIFICATION FOR PUBLICLY APPEARING TO

ACCEPT THE FACT THAT SOVIET LEADERS WOULD HAVE BEEN TOO BUSY TO SEE MITTERRAND AT THE DATES ORIGINALLY SCHEDULED FOR THE TRIP. END SUMMARY.

1. SOVIET LEADERS FOUND RELATIVELY "BLAMELESS" BY THE PS. ALTHOUGH NUMEROUS POLITICAL HYPOTHESES WERE ADVANCED BY THE PARIS RUMOR MILL TO EXPLAIN THE SOVIET-REQUESTED POSTPONEMENT OF MITTERRAND'S TRIP (ORIGINALLY SCHEDULED FOR APRIL 14-21 -- SEE REFTEL), THE CURRENT PS DECISION SUGGESTS THAT THE SOCIALISTS HAVE DECIDED TO PUT THE BEST POSSIBLE PUBLIC FACE ON BOTH THE POSTPONEMENT AND THE SUBSEQUENT RE-INVITATION. SEVERAL PS OFFICIALS HAVE SAID THAT WHILE THEY DO NOT PRIVATELY RULE OUT THE POSSIBILITY OF A POLITICAL DIMENSION TO THE POSTPONEMENT, THE SHELEPIN DISMISSAL COMES "LIKE MANNA FROM HEAVEN" AS AN EXCUSE FOR ACCEPTING THE SOVIET LINE THAT ITS LEADERS WOULD HAVE BEEN TOO BUSY TO SEE MITTERRAND THIS WEEK.

2. THE DIMENSIONS OF THE PS DEBATE. PS LEADERS -- AND THE SOVIET EMBASSY IN PARIS AS WELL -- CLAIM TO HAVE BEEN SURPRISED AT THE STORM WHICH BLEW UP WHEN THE MITTERRAND TRIP WAS POSTPONED. THE SPECTACLE OF SOVIET LEADERSHIP, ASSIDUOUSLY WOODED BY A GOF DEDICATED TO DETENTE, BRUTALLY SNUBBING THE LEADER OF THE OPPOSITION AROUSED A KIND OF NATIONALISTIC REACTION IN EVEN NON-SOCIALIST FRENCHMEN, ALWAYS SENSITIVE TO SLIGHTS BY FOREIGN GOVERNMENTS. AGAINST THIS BACKGROUND, MITTERRAND'S PRIVATE FURY AT THE SOVIETS WAS SUBMERGED IN A CAREFULLY-PLANNED SET OF LEAKS TO THE PRESS AND TO FOREIGN EMBASSIES WHICH STRESSED BOTH PS CALM IN THE FACE OF THIS SEEMING SNUB AND PS CONFIDENCE THAT A "PROPER" TIME WOULD BE FOUND FOR A MITTERRAND TRIP.

3. MITTERRAND DECIDES. UP UNTIL THE END OF LAST WEEK-END (APRIL 12-13), MITTERRAND WAS CONSIDERED TO BE PERSONALLY OPPOSED TO MAKING THE TRIP. IN ORDER TO

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FM AMEMBASSY PARIS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 8615

INFO USMISSION NATO

AMEMBASSY LONDON

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STALL, SENIOR MITTERRAND AIDES LET IT BE KNOWN THAT HE
WOULD ONLY GO TO MOSCOW IF

-- THE SOVIET GOVERNMENT TENDERED A
FORMAL AND PUBLIC INVITATION, AND
-- PRAVDA OR SOME OTHER SUITABLE ORGAN
PUBLISHED A COMMUNIQUE STRESSING THE
HIGH SERIOUSNESS OF THE SOVIETS' DESIRE
TO HAVE MITTERRAND COME.

OVER THE WEEKEND, HOWEVER, MITTERRAND BECAME AWARE OF
THE RISING TIDE OF PUBLIC SENTIMENT AND, FEELING IT WAS
BETTER TO CAPITALIZE ON THIS SENTIMENT BY APPEARING
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STATESMANLIKE RATHER THAN DIFFICULT, LET IT BE KNOWN
TO THE SOVIET EMBASSY THAT THEIR INVITATION FOR A TRIP
WITHIN TEN DAYS WOULD BE ACCEPTED.

4. THE PS' PRIVATE FEARS: IF THE PS HAS DECIDED TO
MAKE THE MOST PUBLIC POLITICAL CAPITAL OF THE NEW
INVITATION, SOCIALIST LEADERS CONTINUE TO TELL US THAT
THEIR PRIVATE FEARS (REPORTED REFTTEL) THAT THE POSTPONE-
MENT WAS A) EITHER THE WORK OF THE CHIRAC GOVERNMENT,
OR B) ALLEGED SOVIET DESIRE TO EMBARRASS MITTERRAND, HAVE

NOT BEEN PUT TO REST. MARSEILLE DEPUTY/MAYOR GASTON
DEFFERRE, ORIGINALLY A BACKER OF THE TRIP AND ONE OF
THE MEMBERS OF MITTERRAND'S DELEGATION, HAS BEEN A
PARTICULARLY VOCAL DISSENTER FROM THE PARTY'S
DECISION. THE CERES, LEFT WING OF THE PS, IS EQUALLY
UNSURE THAT MITTERRAND, BY ACCEPTING THE DECISION, IS
NOT LAYING HIMSELF OPEN TO FURTHER EMBARRASSMENT.
WHATEVER ITS ALLEGED PRIVATE CONCERNS, THE PS IS PUTTING
ITSELF SQUARELY BEHIND MITTERRAND WITH ONLY THE SLIGHT-
LY SOUR NOTE SOUNDED BY DEFFERRE'S ANNOUNCEMENT THAT HE
WILL NOT STAY IN THE SOVIET UNION MORE THAN TWO OR
THREE DAYS.
STONE

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